

FELLOWSHIP

FDDI HYDERABAD

1
EDITION

AVTARAN
2024

THE BEES
KNEES

2024
CONVOCATION

THE TEAM

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ABOUT US

Crafted with enthusiasm and care, FDDI Hyderabad brings you "Felicitas," a magazine that caters to the creative mind. An array of topics ranging from fashion, make-up, pop culture, creative writings, musings, activities, sites to see, and more have been handpicked and presented for you to indulge in. This magazine is not only a work of dedicated design but also an innovative space that serves as an outlet & a platform for all the little wonders that go on with the people around us every day!



DR. NARASIMHUGARI
TEJ LOHIT REDDY, IAS

“THANK YOU
FOR TAKING
YOUR TIME
TO GIVE IT A
READ.”

FROM THE **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Felicitas has become an essential part of our college ecosystem, serving as a platform for our students to express their creativity, intellect, and ideas. Being part of the editorial team or contributing content to Felicitas provides students with practical experience in writing, editing, layout design, and online publication. These skills are invaluable in their academic and professional pursuits.

Felicitas serves as an archive of the college’s history, capturing the events, achievements, and milestones of our institution.

In conclusion, Felicitas is not just a student e-magazine; it is a representation of our college’s spirit, diversity, and intellectual prowess. As the Executive Director, I am proud to see how it has grown and evolved over the years, reflecting the remarkable contributions of our students and faculty. I encourage all members of our academic community to support and engage with Felicitas as it continues to play an essential role in the life of our institution.

Sincerely,
Dr. Narasimhugari Tej Lohit Reddy, IAS
Executive Director

EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the 16th edition of Felicitas!

Like a finely woven fabric, this issue brings together stories and experiences that celebrate both the spirit of FDDI around the country and the artistry of different drapes around the world.

This edition stitches together experiences from industrial visits, competitions, and a wealth of tradition. Beyond this, the design aims to impart knowledge and information about culture and new inventions.

At the heart of this issue lies a tribute to the drapes of India that have adorned our culture for centuries. Just as every thread in fabric tells a story, every article in this magazine is a piece of a larger narrative—one that speaks of craftsmanship, creativity, and innovation. Scattered throughout these pages, you'll find special contributions from the students of FDDI—creative expressions that will educate, some will inspire, and some will simply melt your heart.

So, as you turn these pages, we invite you to immerse yourself in this carefully woven collection of ideas, traditions, and forward-thinking perspectives. Whether you're planning to simply flip through and look at visual treats, be up to date with the events at our thriving community, or get recommendations from our team, you are at the right place.

Happy reading!

Harshitha and Sujatha

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AVTARAN

2024

Draping is an artful interplay between fabric and form, where the material is delicately folded, arranged and pinned to create the structure of a garment. Whether it's inspired by a sketch, or guided by the fabric's natural flow, a designer explores the art of creation, allowing the cloth to unveil its own story.



AVTARAN 2024

was a serene event conducted on 13th November, curated by the fashion design students of the 2023 batch as a part of their jury assignment. Students showcased traditional Indian drapes from across the country where each drape was distinct in its technique and the story of its wearer.

The entire sequence was a poignant narration of female empowerment, subtly intertwined with the tale of Draupadi's Vastraharan, also known as "Panchali Cheer Haran," leaving an indelible mark on the audience.



The walk, followed by an act, was one of the most empowering performances in the history of FDDI. It depicted Draupadi as a modern woman, fighting her own battles.



Fashion Design Batch of 2023 aimed to portray the unity and resilience of women and their ability to protect themselves. The models moved in a circle, continuously re-wrapping the saree that was being forcibly removed from Draupadi, symbolising the unbreakable bond of womanhood and their inherent strength. This performance demonstrated that women possess the inner fortitude to overcome adversity and liberate themselves, rather than relying on the intervention of a patriarchal society. This powerful message resonated deeply, inspiring the audience to recognise strength within themselves and the transformative power of female solidarity.



A diverse range of drapes from Nauvari to Seedha Pallu, Mekhela Chadar, Madisar, Athpourey, Angrakha, Lungi, etc. were presented to the audience. Every drape was infused with the students' own unique interpretation and innovative flair. These draping styles not only served practical purposes but also represented cultural identities across India, showcasing the beauty and diversity of Indian fashion traditions. Avtaran 2024 transcended the boundaries of a mere event; it became a transformative learning experience for everyone in attendance.



ICONIC

DRAPE

Across the



SAREE

India

India is a land of myriad and exquisite cultures and subcultures. One of the main traditional dresses in India is the saree. Derived from Sanskrit for 'a strip of cloth,' it is a single-length fabric 5 to 9 yards (ca. 8 m) long worn with a blouse. The saree can be draped in many different ways, making it the world's most versatile garment.

DASHIKI

Africa

This colorful V-neck garment is named from the Yoruba word 'Danshiki', which means 'loose-fitting pullover'. Dashikis are traditional African apparel worn by Ghana's Ewe people. They gradually acquired popularity throughout Africa. Sometimes, they are worn with matching trousers. Both men and women wear them; however, women frequently wear the dashiki outfit.

KEFFIYEH

Arab world & palestine

Keffiyeh, derived from the Arabic word 'from the city of Kufa,' was traditionally worn to protect against the sand and sun. People considered the keffiyeh as a symbol of Palestinian nationalism. It is a black and white checkered piece of cloth.

KEBAYA

Indonesia

Kebaya is a traditional blouse-dress combination from Indonesia, although it is also worn in Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, southern Thailand, Cambodia, and the Southern Philippines. Before 1600, only ladies from the royal family wore the Kebaya, which was subsequently accepted by everyone. It's often made of sheer, lightweight fabrics such as silk, cotton, or lace and is known for its intricate embroidery and delicate designs.

ED GARMENTS

cultures of the world



KIMONO
Japan

A kimono—which means a thing to wear—is a full-length robe. Both men and women wear it in Japan, and it is secured with an obi, which is a fabric sash. Worn for festivals and occasions, it is one of the oldest national costumes still in use. The Junihitoe, which was the 1st prototype, traces as far back as the 3rd century. It commonly has floral patterns, cherry blossoms, and symbols such as the crane, indicating good fortune and long life.



HANBOOK
South Korea

Hanbok is a traditional Korean dress. The term means Korean clothing and they designed it to allow easy movement. The two-piece attire comprises a Jeogori (blouse) and a Chima (skirt) for women and a Jeogori (jacket) and Baji (trousers) for men. People wear it during formal or semi-formal occasions such as festivities and celebrations. Traditionally, the Koreans made it in vibrant colours that represent the five elements of the yin and yang.



KILT
Gaelic, Scottish

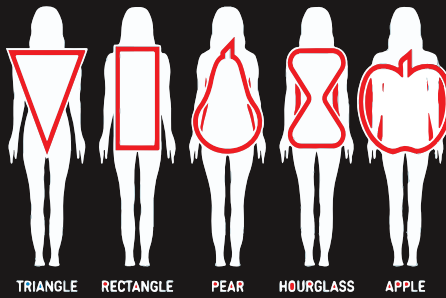
It originated as the traditional outfit of Gaelic males and Scottish lads and is a knee-length, skirt-like garment with pleats in the back. Kilts, worn on formal occasions, are composed of tartan-patterned woollen fabric. 35 years after King George II lifted his ban on Kilt due to fears of revolt, it began to be identified with the entire Scottish nation.



KANZU
Central & East Africa

They are cream or white African traditional clothes worn by men in Africa's Great Lakes region. These include Ethiopians, Tanzanians, Ugandans, Kenyans, and so on. The English name is Tunic, but the Arabs call it Thawb. Originally, Arab traders impacted it. Men typically wear it at weddings and festivals. Initially, only members of high society wore it, but as individuals created it locally, it became more widely available.

HOW TO DRAPE



Your body is a canvas, and your clothes are the brushstrokes.

The history of draping reflects the evolution of humanity's relationship with fabric, culture, and identity. From ancient Greece to modern-day runways, draping continues to inspire and captivate. As fashion designer Vivienne Westwood said, "You have a more interesting life if you wear impressive clothes."

Draping is not just about clothing; it's about celebrating art, individuality, and the beauty of the human form. Draping, one of the oldest forms of clothing, reflects the evolution of culture, creativity, and identity. Originating in ancient civilizations like Mesopotamia, Egypt, and India, draping was practical yet symbolic, with garments like sarees, togas, and chitons representing status, grace, and tradition.

In South and Southeast Asia, draped attire like sarees, sarongs, and hanfus showcased regional diversity, while Europe saw draping evolve from medieval cloaks to Renaissance gowns and neoclassical styles. Influenced by designers like Madeleine Vionnet, the modern era redefined draping as a blend of tradition and innovation, celebrating the body's natural form. Today, draping remains an art form, uniting timeless elegance with cultural identity.

Designers worldwide, both Indian and international, create draping styles tailored to enhance different body types. Indian designers like Sabyasachi, Manish Malhotra, and Anita Dongre focus on elegant, flowing drapes that emphasise curves and balanced proportions.



ACCORDING TO YOUR

BODY TYPE



For hourglass figures, highlight the waist with fitted drapes or belted sarees. Pear-shaped bodies benefit from voluminous drapes on the upper body to balance proportions. Apple-shaped bodies should focus on soft, flowing fabrics that skim the midsection. Rectangle-shaped bodies can add curves with lav-

ered draping and structured pleats. For petite frames, avoid heavy fabrics and opt for lighter materials with minimal pleating. Taller individuals can experiment with bold prints and longer drapes. Tailoring draping styles to complement your unique shape will help bring out your confidence.

Designers worldwide, both Indian and international, create draping styles tailored to enhance different body types. Indian designers like Sabyasachi, Manish Malhotra, and Anita Dongre focus on elegant, flowing drapes that emphasise curves and balanced proportions. In contrast, international designers like Valentino, Christian Dior, and Stella McCartney use luxurious fabrics and classic cuts to flatter various silhouettes. Each designer offers distinct techniques—whether it's Sabyasachi's structured sarees for hourglass figures or Stella McCartney's minimalist designs for petite bodies—that help highlight the wearer's best features. By choosing the right designer and draping style, individuals can confidently enhance their natural beauty and embrace their unique body shapes.

No two bodies are alike, and that's the beauty of draping—it allows the fabric to tell a new story every time it meets a new form.

NIKE VAPORFLY

THE SUPER SHOE OR SUPER PROBLEM



the Nike Vaporfly is made for the chasers, the racers, the elevated pacers who can't turn down the thrill of the pursuit.

THE GUTS OF THE THING : WHAT MAKES IT TICK?

The Vaporfly was all about fancy materials and clever engineering:

- **ZoomX Foam:** This super-light, bouncy foam gives back a ton of energy, making running feel way easier than with regular foam.
- **Carbon-Fiber Plate:** Imagine a springy plate inside the shoe working with the ZoomX foam to give you a little extra oomph with every stride.
- **Weird Shape and Stack Height:** The shoe's chunky sole and curved shape were designed to make your foot roll smoothly and save energy.
- **Lightweight Upper:** A comfy, breathable upper kept things light and breezy.

All this tech promised a 4% boost in running efficiency – which is huge in the world of competitive running.

FROM ZERO TO HERO (ALMOST): THE SUCCESS STORY

The Vaporfly was a smash hit at first. Athletes wearing them shattered records, like when Eliud Kipchoge (with some help, admittedly) ran a sub-2-hour marathon. Regular runners also raved about how fast they felt in the shoes, with many hitting personal bests just by switching to Vaporflies.

The buzz kicked off a shoe arms race. Other brands scrambled to make their own carbon-plated, high-stack shoes, changing the whole running shoe game.



THE PLOT TWIST: NOT ALL SUNSHINE AND RAINBOWS

- **Despite the initial excitement, the Vaporfly ran into some issues:**
 - Rules, Rules, Rules:** People started wondering if the shoes were too good. Critics argued it was like "mechanical doping." World Athletics stepped in and made some new rules about shoe height and banned prototypes, which definitely slowed the Vaporfly's roll.
- **Price Tag Shock:** These shoes cost a small fortune! Not exactly accessible for most runners, which kind of goes against the whole idea of running being a sport for everyone.
- **Didn't Last Long:** While they were fast, they weren't durable. That fancy ZoomX foam wore out pretty quickly, making them an expensive investment for everyday runners.
- **Not One-Size-Fits-All:** The Vaporfly worked wonders for some runners, but others found them unstable or uncomfortable. Turns out, they're better suited for certain running styles.
- **Earth-Friendly? Not Really:** All those high-tech materials and the short lifespan raised some serious questions about sustainability.

SO, WAS IT A GAME CHANGER OR JUST A FAD?

The Vaporfly definitely shook things up. It pushed the boundaries of shoe design and got everyone thinking about what's possible.

But it also showed us that technology in sports is complicated. Just because something makes you faster doesn't mean it's fair, accessible, or good for the planet.

The Vaporfly is a reminder that innovation is awesome, but it needs to be balanced with things like fairness, sustainability, and making sure everyone has a chance to participate. It's a cool



HOW THE LEATHER INDUSTRY IS AIMING TOWARDS SUSTAINABILITY



The leather industry has long been associated with a significant environmental footprint. From the chemicals used in tanning to the deforestation linked to livestock farming, leather production has historically raised numerous concerns. However, in recent years, a noticeable shift has begun to take place. The leather sector is evolving, with both companies and consumers increasingly prioritising sustainability. So, what measures is the leather industry taking to move toward a more sustainable future?

The first step involves acknowledging the challenges at hand. Traditional leather production requires substantial water resources—

not only to raise cattle but also to process the hides. The chemicals used in tanning, such as chromium, often contaminate water systems, polluting ecosystems and posing risks to human health. Furthermore, the environmental impact of cattle farming is undeniable, with deforestation and methane emissions contributing to a larger carbon footprint.

This is where the shift toward alternative materials becomes particularly interesting. Consider leather derived from pineapple leaves, mushrooms, or even apples. These plant-based materials offer several advantages: they are biodegradable and signifi-

cantly reduce the reliance on animal farming, making them a far more sustainable option. For instance, Piñatex, a fabric made from pineapple leaves, is gaining traction for its eco-friendly and cruelty-free properties, particularly within the fashion industry. Additionally, some companies are exploring lab-grown leather, produced using microorganisms such as yeast or fungi. This bio-leather is customisable, allowing for adaptation to various design needs, and it circumvents many of the environmental issues associated with traditional leather production.

What, then, of the leather is still made from animals? Fortunately, some compa-

nies are revisiting the tanning process itself to make it more sustainable. Rather than relying on harmful chemicals like chromium, many are opting for vegetable tanning—a method that utilises natural plant-based extracts to preserve leather. This approach not only benefits the environment but also reduces water consumption, which is particularly beneficial in regions facing water scarcity. Additionally, some tanneries are investing in technologies that recycle water throughout the process, thereby minimising waste.

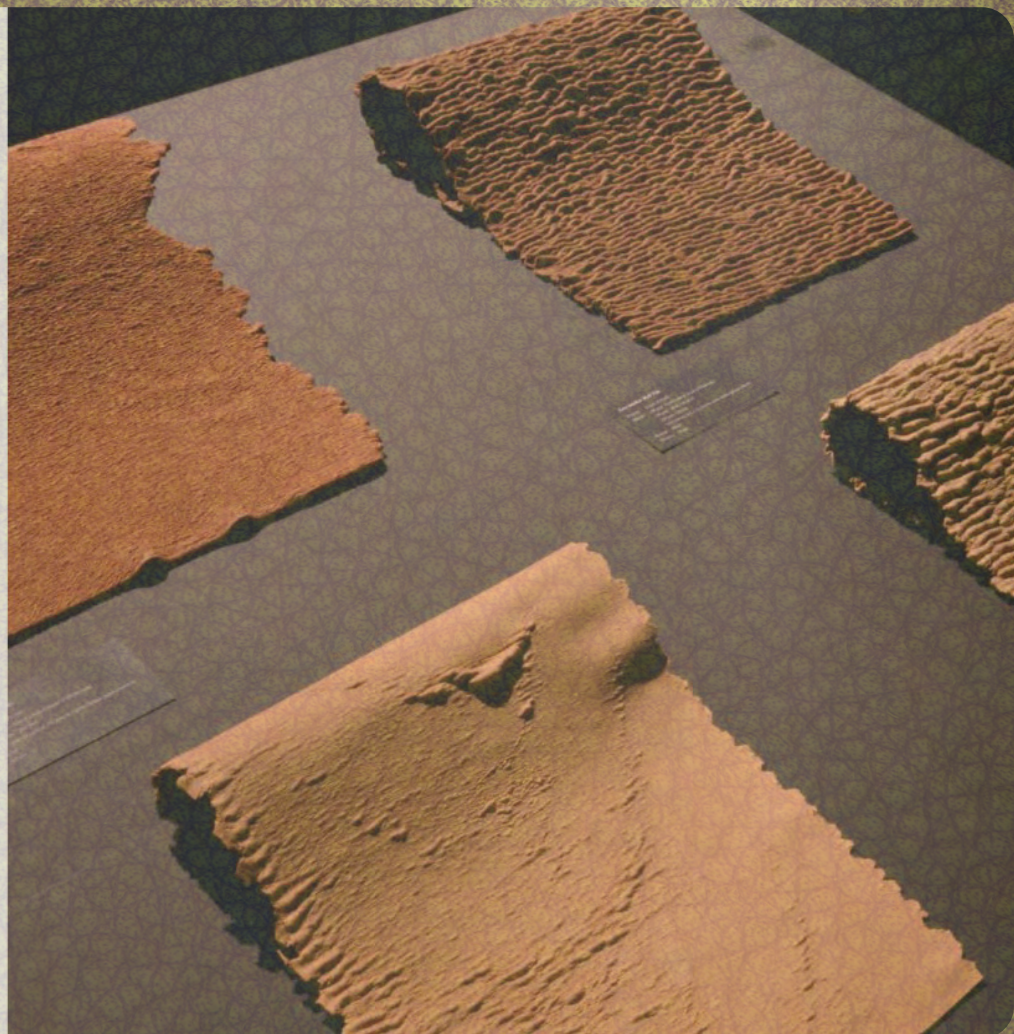
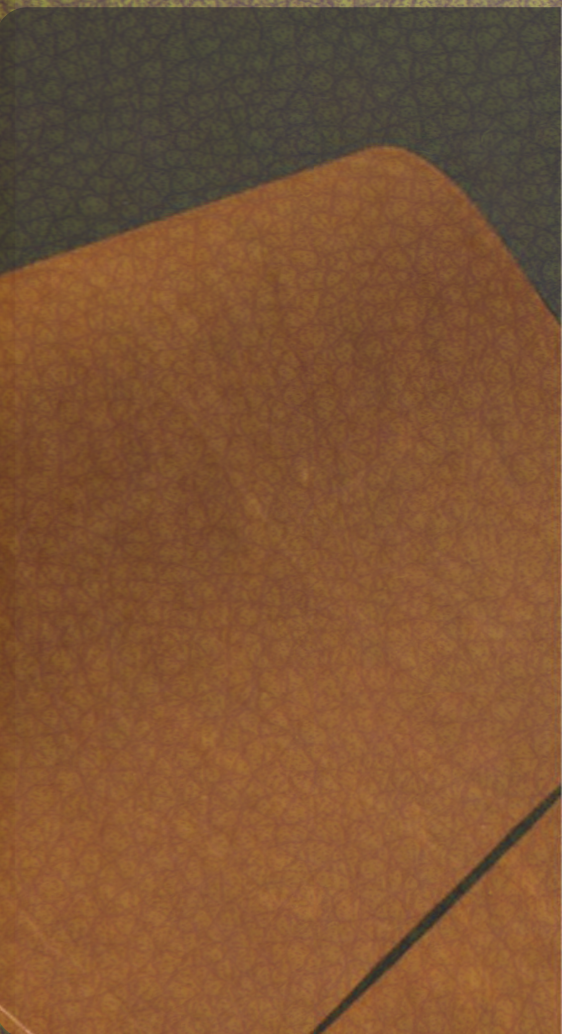
Moreover, the concept of a circular economy is gaining momentum. The idea is simple: leather goods that are durable, repairable, and capable of being recycled into new products. Sever-

al brands are collecting old leather items, repurposing them, and transforming them into entirely new goods—such as turning old leather jackets into handbags or shoes. Reclaimed leather, made from materials that would otherwise be discarded, is also becoming more prevalent, further reducing the need for fresh leather production and helping to cut down on waste.

What is driving these changes? Much of the shift can be attributed to consumers. As awareness of environmental issues increases, people are demanding greater transparency from the brands they support. Consumers are seeking information about how products are made, the origins of materials, and the steps companies are taking to reduce their carbon foot-

prints. As consumer behavior continues to evolve, brands are responding accordingly, recognising that sustainability is no longer a mere trend—it is now an essential expectation.

While the leather industry still has a long way to go before it becomes fully sustainable, the progress seen thus far is promising. Whether innovative plant-based materials, improved tanning methods, or circular design practices are used, the future of leather holds the potential to be far more eco-friendly than ever before. The next time you make a purchase, you might just find yourself selecting something that not only looks good and feels good but also contributes positively to the planet.



SHILPARAMAM



Sunshine beaming between the clouds, and with enthusiasm within everyone's hearts, the B.Des foundation students were on their toes for their very first class trip. The reason being it was the first outing after a solid one month of making good friends amongst one another. The 11th of September 2024 was the day when a half-day visit was organised for them by FDDI Hyderabad to Shilpa Ramam a cultural and handicraft village in Hyderabad. The primary objective of the visit was to immerse the students in the world of traditional Indian handicrafts and learn about the various artisan skills and techniques showcased at the venue. Shilpa Ramam, known for its rich collection of handcrafted textiles, pottery, jewelry, and woodwork, offered the students a unique opportunity to explore the vibrant artistry of different Indian states.





During the visit, the students interacted with skilled artisans, gaining valuable insights into the intricate processes involved in the creation of these traditional crafts. The faculty guided the students briefly in observing and appreciating the craftsmanship, and mostly leaving them to explore the place on their own as it helps them connect their academic knowledge while having fun with their friends. With wallets in hand and eyes on the prize, they turned Shilpa Ramam into their personal shopping haven. Bargaining

shouldn't be encouraged but the quite shy ones also learnt the art of bargaining from their experience here!

In addition to the educational experience, the students enjoyed a leisurely boat ride on the nearby lake, offering them a chance to relax and take in the scenic surroundings. The day concluded with a snack break at the dhabas where you could hear the tired but fulfilled chatters. The visit proved to be both an enjoyable and enriching learning opportunity for all.

BIRLA MUSEUM VISIT





Chatters got louder as the students were growing impatient by the min-ute waiting for the bus to arrive and excursion to finally start. On Janu-ary 21, 2025, a group of enthusias-tic B.Des foundation students from FDDI Hyderabad embarked on a memorable educational trip to the Birla Museum.

The visit, a perfect blend of knowl-edge and fun-filled activities, provided students with deep in-sights into India's rich cultural heritage and scientific wonders. Themuseum featured traditional In-dian sculptures, intricate paintings, and historical artifacts.

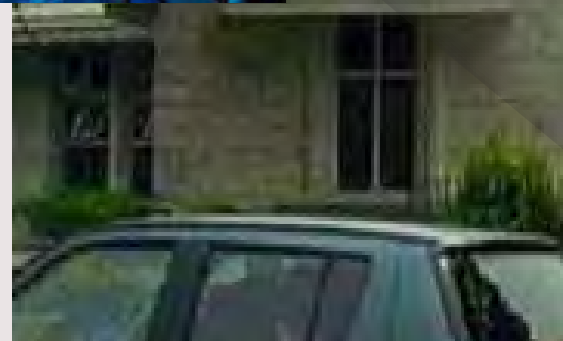
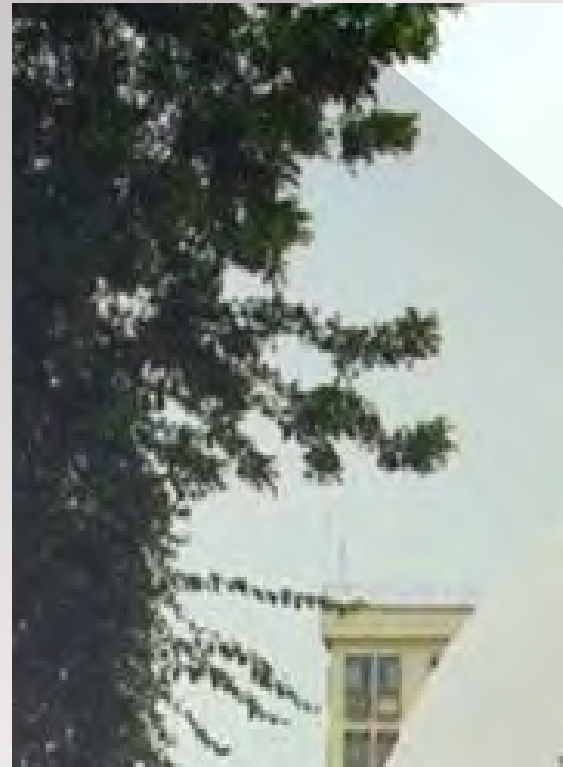
The mechanical exhibition, portray-ing the world of physics, along with a Dinosaurium and excavation dis-plays of Dwaraka, were few among the highlights. Students admired the classical and folk art styles, such as Madhubani, Warli, and Pattachi-tra, as well as beautifully crafted bronze and stone sculptures. These art forms offered a fascinating glimpse into India's artistic traditions and cultural history. Particular-ly captivating were the Ramayana and Bhagavatham stories, paint-ed frame by frame, which stood out as one of the key attractions.

BIRLA PLANETARIUM

Another highlight of the trip was the visit to Birla Planetarium. Several students attended the fascinating planetarium show, which offered a mesmerising presentation on celestial wonders and astronomy. It was a truly immersive experience, sparking awe and curiosity among the students.

Overall, the trip was an enriching experience, seamlessly blending education with adventure. The students returned not only with valuable knowledge of different art forms but also with unforgettable memories of their day out in the heat—exploring the marvels of science and history.

Finally, the day concluded with refreshments, tired yet fulfilled hearts.





LLPD

KOLKATA TRIP

In December 2024, the LLPD batch 2023 students visited the FDDI Kolkata Campus. The 2-week tour was carefully planned to provide students with industrial exposure and tannery instruction. Through December 9th–December 20th, each day was dedicated to investigating different aspects of the leather tanneries and their industries. As part of their training, students visited the tannery everyday to observe, question, and learn. Staff at the tannery provided assistance and shared their knowledge about all the processes.



TANNERY



During the visit, the tannery staff members delivered an engaging and detailed demonstration of each machine, highlighting their capabilities and the cutting-edge technology that drives them. The labs, meticulously maintained at precise temperatures, were designed to create the ideal environment for hands-on learning. This practical experience of manufacturing process, allowed them to see firsthand how theory translates into real-world application.

VISIT



INDUSTRIAL VISIT



Next, the students visited the jigs manufacturing room, where they learnt about the significance in ensuring precision. In the packing room, information about the need for a dry environment, with ventilators used to prevent moisture was explained. Finally, the hardware room, where components were stored alphabetically on shelves.

The visit began with a tour of the quality control room, where defects were checked against clearly defined standards on the walls under bright lights. The students were then moved to the cutting area, where components were organised and counted for each design. The Industrial Engineering (I.E.) department explained how they track production time and work on improving efficiency to increase output.

The students observed various stages of the leather tanning process, including techniques such as Liming, Fleshing, Shredding, FatLiquoring, Toggling, Hand Padding, and Milling. These processes were carefully demonstrated, offering a comprehensive view of the methods used to transform raw hides into high-quality leather.

Through these interactions, they gained valuable insights deepening their understanding of both the craft and the science behind leather production.



THE COE BUILDING

The FDDI Kolkata Campus, located in the Leather Complex, provides unique industry exposure. The Centre of Excellence (CoE) facility on campus houses advanced leather manufacturing machines. The facilities offer complete learning opportunities, including leather printing, embossing, spray painting, belt punching, trimming, and automated stitching.

SYMPOSIUM ON

'Safety Footwear and Standards: A Step Towards Advancing Industry Practices' held at FDDI, Hyderabad campus in collaboration with BIS, Hyderabad

On the 26th of November, 2024, the School of Footwear Design & Production (FDP) of FDDI Hyderabad in collaboration with the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Hyderabad, organised a groundbreaking symposium on 'Safety Footwear and Standards: A Step Towards Advancing Industry Practices'.

This symposium served as a significant platform for fostering meaningful dialogue and collaboration between industry professionals and academic experts.

The event witnessed key

stakeholders, regulatory bodies, and industry experts to explore the latest advancements, emerging standards, and best practices in the field of safety footwear. With a diverse audience from construction, mining, steel, hazardous chemicals, agriculture, and other high-risk sectors, the symposium aimed to shape the future of safety footwear by discussing critical industry challenges and solutions ensuring better protection for workers across diverse fields.

The discussions highlighted the critical role of safety footwear in various sectors, from

defense to construction, and underscored the

need for continuous innovation and research. Moving forward, this event paved the way for further collaborations between industry leaders and academia, with the shared goal of advancing safety standards and developing innovative solutions.



Name of the Speaker	Topics Covered
Dr. N.T.L Reddy, IAS, Executive Director, FDDI-Hyderabad	Overview of Safety Shoes Sector in India
Ms. Sattu Savitha, Scientist D & Joint Director, Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)	Indian and International Safety Standards
Mr. Rehan Ajman, Calico Trends	Manufacturing Perspective –Representative from Council for Leather Exports
Ms. Sathyavathi, Founder- Indus Shoes	Micro-Manufacturer Insight



Mr. Santosh, Founder-Earthen tunes Designs	Emerging Start-Up Innovations & snake bite and Safety Footwear
Mr. Rajagopala Rao, Director - Department of Factories, Govt. of Telangana	Insights from State Government Representatives – Importance of Safety Footwear & Standards in factories
Mr. Chandra Shekaram, Joint Commissioner, Department of Labour, Govt. of Telangana	Insights from State Government Representatives – The Role of Safety Footwear in Enhancing Worker Welfare
Dr. K Veera Brahman, Chief Scientist & Inventor, DRDO, GoI	User Requirements - Army/Para-Military (Police, Army, DRDO)
Mr. Chintala Sreenivas, General Manager, The Singareni Collieries Company Limited, GoI	User Requirements – Mining & Coal Industry (Singareni)
Dr. Aruna, Sr. Principal Scientist, CSIR- IICT, GoI	Research on Materials – IICT Insights
Mr. Samuel, Manager - Ultratech Cements – Aditya Birla Group.	User Perspective – Views from the Construction Industry
Mr. Srinivas, Department of Fire & Safety, Govt. of Telanagana.	User Perspective- Views for Fire safety Footwear
Mr. Prince Joseph, Senior Faculty	Latest Technologies and Advancements in Safety Footwear
Mr. Ramasastry, Sr. Technologist, FDDI Testing Center	Testing and Quality Assurance

The symposium featured various interactive components, including poster presentations, providing students with the opportunity to showcase their innovative ideas for improving safety foot-

wear. Their dedication to advancing safety footwear standards was recognised with certificates and monetary prizes, applauding their hard work and commitment to shaping the industry's future.

Ms. Laasya Priya, Ms. Varshini, and Mr. Ayaan were awarded first place for their innovative foldable footwear designed for construction workers. The awards

AI MEETS FASHION

A Masterclass with Google's Ambika Sharma.

In September 12th, 2024, FDDI had the privilege to host an enlightening AI seminar featuring the distinguished Ms. Ambika Sharma, who currently leads AI GTM sales at Google and serves as an angel investor. Ms. Sharma, a Harvard alumna with extensive experience in tech innovation, was invited by the School of Fashion Design (SOFD) to share her expertise. Her impressive background, combining her role at Google Inc. with actively supporting FIT, New York in revolutionising design education, made her the perfect speaker to guide us through the AI landscape.

The seminar turned out to be super engaging, with Ms. Sharma breaking down complex AI concepts into bite-sized, relatable examples. What really stood out was how she didn't just



hype up AI – she gave us the full picture, discussing both its amazing potential and the challenges we need to watch out for in our daily lives and academic work. She emphasised something that really clicked with us students: the importance of blending our creative instincts with AI tools to create something even more awesome.

The highlight of the session was getting hands-on experience with Google's latest AI innovation, Gemini. Google released Gemini as their most advanced AI model yet, designed to understand and process text, images, audio, and

code. It's like having a super-smart study buddy that can help with everything from writing and analysis to coding and creative projects. What makes Gemini special is its ability to understand context and nuance better than previous AI models, making it incredibly useful for students across different fields.



Ms. Sharma made sure everyone in the room got to try out Gemini through some fun exercises, which honestly made the whole concept of AI feel much less intimidating. The session wrapped up with a Q&A round where students eagerly shot questions about everything from AI ethics to practical applications in fashion design. It was amazing to see how many of my classmates were already thinking about creative ways

to use AI in their projects! Artificial Intelligence has come a long way from being just a sci-fi concept to becoming an essential tool in our daily lives. From helping us with research and brainstorming to automating repetitive tasks, AI is transforming how we learn and work. However, as Ms. Sharma pointed out, it's crucial to remember that AI is meant to enhance our capabilities, not re-

place our unique creative thinking and problem-solving skills. The seminar left us all excited about the possibilities that lie ahead in combining our creativity with AI tools to push the boundaries of innovation in design and beyond.



FDDI HYDERABAD HOST'S ITS 4TH CONVOCATION

Hyderabad, Oct 14 – The Footwear Design and Development Institute (FDDI), Hyderabad, celebrated a momentous occasion with its fourth convocation ceremony, marking another milestone in its journey of academic excellence and industry leadership. The event brought students, faculty, and industry leaders together to honor the achievements of graduates who are set to redefine the future of fashion, footwear, and retail.

The convocation was graced by esteemed dignitaries, with Telangana Governor Jishnu Dev Varma as the chief guest. Addressing the graduates, he underscored the importance of embracing innovation and entrepreneurship in today's rapidly evolving landscape. "In today's world, creativity and innovation are not merely advantageous—they are essential," he remarked, urging students to think beyond

limits and bring transformative changes to the industry. Jayesh Ranjan, Principal Secretary of the Industries & Commerce (I&C) Department, delivered an inspiring address. He encouraged students to take on leadership roles and make meaningful contributions to the sector. "You are the torchbearers of the future," he said, highlighting the importance of vision, leadership, and adaptability in an ever-changing world.

SPOTLIGHT ON ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE: GOLD AND SILVER MEDALISTS

The ceremony honored the brightest minds of FDDI Hyderabad, celebrating their exceptional academic performances.

The prestigious gold medal, awarded to overall toppers, went to:

- Navya Sri Kancham Reddy – Footwear Design & Production (FDP)
- Nupur – Retail & Fashion Merchandise (RFM)

Meanwhile, the coveted silver medal, recognizing department toppers, was awarded to:

- Navya Sri Kancham Reddy – Footwear Design & Production (FDP)
- Nupur – Retail & Fashion Merchandise (RFM)
- Namratha Alluri – Fashion Design
- Riya Srivastava – Leather, Lifestyle & Product Design (LLPD)



FDP Batch 2020



FD Batch 2020



LLPD Batch 2020



Industry leaders present at the event acknowledged the role of FDDI graduates in shaping the future of the fashion and retail sectors. The graduates were encouraged to leverage their knowledge and skills to embrace the challenges of the modern marketplace, from sustainable fashion trends to digital transformation in retail. In his presidential address, FDDI Executive Director Dr. Narsimhugari Tej Lohit Reddy congratulated the graduates and emphasized the importance of leadership, innovation, and social responsibility. He urged students to be agents of change, not only focusing on career growth but also contributing to sustainable and ethical industry practices. The possibilities are endless, from launching their own startups to working with global brands. The convocation served as a powerful reminder that education is not just about securing a degree but about using knowledge to create meaningful change in society.

With each passing year, FDDI Hyderabad continues to build a legacy of excellence, producing graduates who are not just skilled professionals, but also visionaries and changemakers. The 4th convocation was not just a ceremony; it was a celebration of ambition, resilience, and the promise of a bright future ahead.

“

These outstanding students have demonstrated unwavering dedication, creativity, and perseverance, setting new benchmarks for future graduates.

”

REPUBLIC DAY

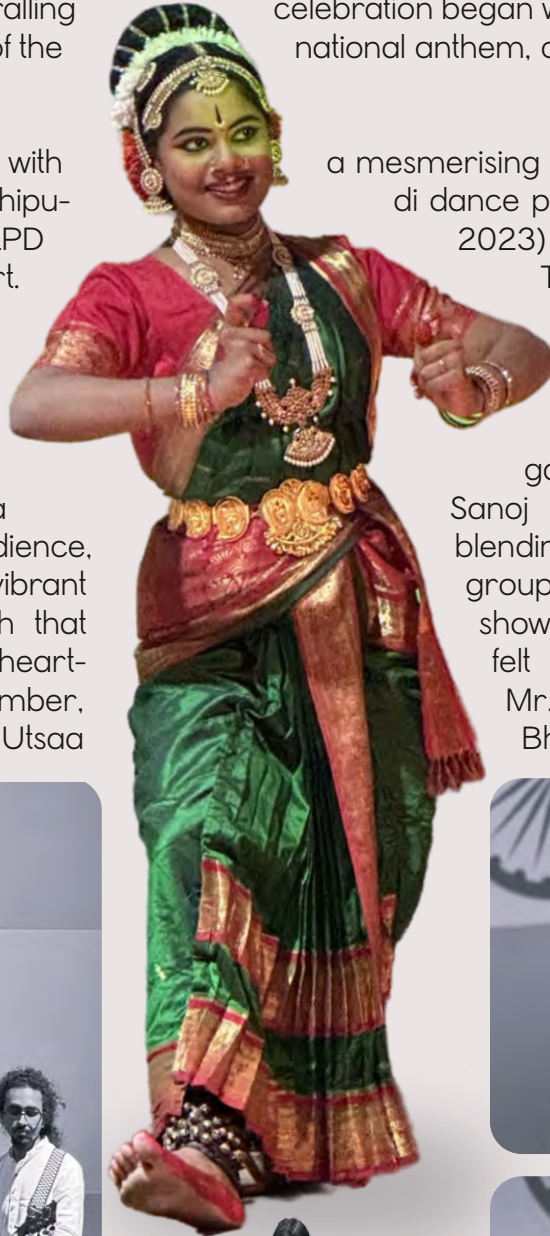
The 26th of January, 2025 was marked with great enthusiasm and patriotism as India celebrated its 76th Republic Day. This enthralling event began with the ceremonial flag hoisting, followed by a soulful rendition of the national anthem, creating a sense of pride and unity among those present.

The cultural festivities commenced with a mesmerising solo song by Aadrika Ghuna (FDP 2023), followed by a solo Kuchipudi dance performance, by our talented student Priyahasini Mandava (LLPD 2023) which beautifully depicted the essence of Indian classical art. This was followed by inspiring speeches by our esteemed faculty members, Faizi Sir and Krishna Kumar Sir highlighting the importance of Republic Day and our nation's democratic journey.

Adding to the cultural extravaganza, a graceful duo Bharat-Sanoj (LLPD 2023) and Arya blending rhythm and expression group dance performance by the students of Foundation batch that showcased the rich diversity of Indian culture, followed by a heartfelt musical performance by our very own talented faculty member, Mr. Venu Gopal Sir accompanied by students, Harshit and Utsav.

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The event also included lively performances by children of the faculties, filling the atmosphere with joy and energy. Thought-provoking debates on “Is India ready to embrace artificial intelligence at the national level?” and “Is India’s education system capable of producing global leaders?” engaged the audience and as the students presented a variety of opinions. There was also a beautiful Nukkad Natak that added a touch of drama and shed light on very significant social issues on this important day.



The program concluded with a speech by Amit Puri Sir emphasising the responsibilities of citizens in nation-building. The much-awaited prize distribution ceremony recognised and honoured winners and participants of all the competitions that were held.



Finally, a vote of thanks expressed gratitude to everyone who contributed to making the celebration a grand success.

The Republic Day celebration was a wonderful event that promoted patriotism and unity while highlighting the different skills of the college community. This year’s event was conducted like never before. It was one of the most meticulously planned Republic Day celebrations in the history of FDDI Hyderabad and ensured a token of appreciation to each and every person who contributed.



EVERY FACE

TELLS

A

STORY



“Every face a canvas, every brushstroke a story”—this came alive at our college’s face painting competition. Five teams of two transformed faces into art, also writing short descriptions to convey their artistic vision. This blend of visual and narrative elements captivated the audience and judges

Designs spanned diverse themes, from environmental awareness to cultural harmony and abstract emotions.

Vibrant colors and intricate patterns turned faces into living art. Each team’s unique style made the competition a visual feast, showcasing boundless creativity. Judges commended the innovative approaches and meaningful concepts.

The competition celebrated teamwork, imagination, and artistic expression. Adding a twist, some used hand painting, creating intricate designs that offered unique perspectives. This mix of techniques further captivated the audience and judges. Judging criteria included originality, creativity, theme relevance, and composition. After careful deliberation, the judges announced the winners.





First position Varsha and Shubham

*Theme – The Spiderman
Medium – Acrylic paint*

Varsha and Shubham opted for hand painting, using the wrist as their canvas to bring to life the iconic Spider-Man. The bold red and blue patterns, coupled with intricate web designs, capture the superhero's essence of resilience, courage, and responsibility. With creative details like the black webbing and striking spider emblem, their work paid tribute not just to Spider-Man but also to the values he represents, inspiring onlookers to embrace their own inner strength and sense of duty.



Second position Parvathi and Chaarvi

*Theme – The Ethereal Flora
Medium – Acrylic paint*



Inspired by the delicate beauty and mystique of nature, Parvathi and Chaarvi's design celebrated growth, renewal, and harmony. Using flowing patterns and vibrant hues of green, pink, and gold, they captured the timeless elegance found in nature's details. Their artwork reminded viewers of the connection between humanity and the natural world, inviting a sense of wonder and creativity.





Third position Sudiksha Chettri and Sudiksha Singh

Theme – The Revelation of Youth

Medium – Acrylic paint



Sudiksha Chettri and Sudiksha Singh's design symbolised the boundless energy and resilience of youth. With vibrant colours and intricate designs, they portrayed two contrasting aspects of youth—vulnerability and destructiveness. The butterfly on one side represented the fragility of youth, while the snake on the other side depicted its potential for destruction. Their artwork was a celebration of the spirit, dreams, and passion that define young minds.

The event concluded on a high note, with participants, judges, and spectators applauding the spirit of creativity and camaraderie displayed by everyone involved. Competitions like these not only provide a platform for talent but also encourage teamwork, innovation, and self-expression.

In the end, the face painting competition wasn't just about artistic talent—it was a celebration of creativity, expression, and the unifying power of art. Events like these remind us of the transformative magic of creativity and its ability to connect, inspire, and communicate beyond words. It left everyone inspired, with a reminder that creativity is not limited to paper or canvas; it lives in every face, every hand, and every heart.



CRAFTING THE ART OF TURNING IMAGINATION INTO REALITY

First position Shubra Mishra

*Theme – Romanticism
Material – Clay*

She got inspired by romanticism and light hearted feeling, the land of English promises. She portrays it with the colours. Pink with golden was providing an elegant look to the product. As pink rose adores the sense of love and beauty. The beads at the bottom too show the expression and desire of freedom.



Second Position Kumari Anmol

*Theme – Madhubani art
Material – Clay and paint*

She translated the Madhubani art in her Jewellery. She used bright colours providing a refined and sophisticated look. The fish portraits fertility, beauty and the louts represent purity and spirituality. Her ability to merge modern aesthetics with traditional craftsmanship made her work truly outstanding

THE BEES KNEES

Student Recommendation Corner

Whether you have just started your university journey or are about to graduate, getting advice to help navigate these knowledge walls never hurts! Need some morally gray media to pick your brain about? Here are some recommendations that you must try.



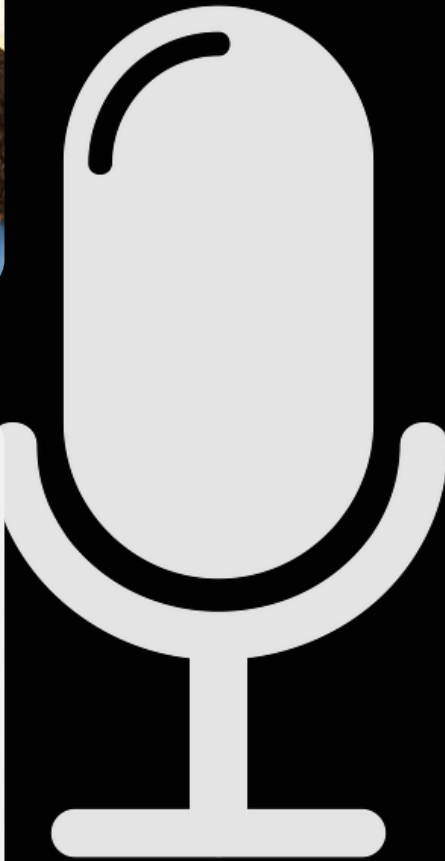
YELLOWFACE BY R.F. KUANG

“Yellowface” will make you question the in-betweens of human behaviors. It is a dark satire written about the publishing industry and the concept of cultural appropriation. It centers around June Hayward, a writer and thief who is experiencing little success in her career.

Athena Liu is her incredibly accomplished Yale friend and peer. After Athena is choked to death on a pancake while June watches, she is left to decide the destiny of Athena’s unfinished novel about Chinese laborers during World War I. Without giving away the entire book, it’s challenging to praise it fully. This book is campy, silly, and absurd! The characters in the book are so unlikeable yet beautifully written that you can’t help but keep reading because you are rooting against them.




It touches on the deep corners of unethical publishing tactics and unfair power imbalances. You follow June’s descent into psychosis, believing Athena’s ghost is haunting her. By the end, June’s self-sabotage leads to her downfall, leaving a distaste in our mouths. It’s not like a racist deserves redemption anyway!



LIFE KIT BY MARIELLE SEGARRA

Episodes of the “Life Kit” podcast are designed to help college students cope with the demanding requirements of college life. Here, you can find solutions to your everyday concerns, such as “How to recover from a bad night’s sleep,” “Reframing procrastination,” or more serious ones, like “How to support a grieving friend?” or “How to stop overanalyzing romantic relationships?” The host of the podcast offers helpful tips on how first-year students can adjust to college life with ease. For example, a podcast on “Clear out your clutter”, by Star Hansen, a professional organizer, teaches how to get rid of unneeded items while keeping your house or dorm room nice and tidy. This podcast for students contains intriguing techniques to make education pleasant and useful.



STUDENTS CORNER



In every place, Dadi was 'the
moment',
But today, home without her is
utterly silent,
She was the star of everyone's
life movie,
And would shine more than dia-
mond, crystal or ruby,
Battling her disease bravely, she
faded,
A crow flew in the yard,
ate the food except what she
hated,
So I asked the crow, "Did she
send you?"
The Crow replied, "She will al-
ways watch you."
So I know she is still a star just in
the sky,
Watching me while sipping her
Chai,
Trying to pull back in my own
way,
But how can I, her kiss on the
cheek feels only like yesterday.



by RAMA SHAHANE

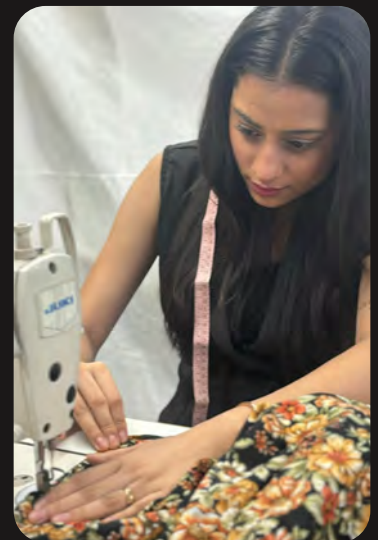
“Aakar: Shape of the Future”

I'm Ankita Agarwal, a final-year fashion student and the founder of Aakar by Ankita. My world revolves around art—whether it's in fashion, painting, or experimenting with new mediums. I love playing with colors, textures, and techniques, always looking for ways to bring an artistic touch to everything I create.

Beyond designing, I enjoy teaching art to students across the world and conducting workshops that make creativity accessible to everyone. Since my first year of college, I've been freelancing, taking on projects, and saying yes to every opportunity that comes my way.

I live by two simple mantras: “Don't wait for opportunities—grab them!” and “Say yes, figure it out later.” These have helped me grow as a designer, artist, and entrepreneur. And when I'm not busy creating, teaching, or designing, you'll probably find me lost in a stationery store, mindlessly adding things to my cart—because, let's be honest, you can never have too many art supplies!

I'm grateful for everything I've learned so far, and I can't wait to keep creating, exploring, and evolving!



by **ANKITA AGARWAL**

ART BY YAMINI RANE





AKSHAYA



AROMAL



AYESHA



HARSHITA



ISHIKA



M NIHARIKA



MRUDULA



SHREYA S



SWETHA A



MOKSHIT



ASMITHA



N SANJANA



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PRIYANSHU



RACHITA



RIDAL



VANSHI



SANJANA SRIVASTAVA



SHARVANI



SUJATHA



VANDANA



VEDAPRIYA



SIDDHIKA



SRUTHI



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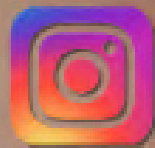


ASHRITA



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